

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically segmenting a digital data file resident within at least one digital data storage device of multiple digital data storage devices associated with a first computing system to facilitate transfer of the segmented digital data file from said first computing system to at least one of a plurality of second computing systems, whereby said method comprises the steps of
 - a) requesting an identifier for said digital data file;
 - b) requesting a range of locations within the multiple data storage devices where said digital data file is resident;
 - c) calculating a new segment size list for said digital data file describing a fragmentation of said digital data file as a function of demand for all digital data files resident on said digital data storage devices, size of each digital data file of all digital data files, amount of retention space available on each of the plurality of digital data storage devices, and available bandwidth for communication with the plurality of second computing systems;

17 | d) if said digital data file has been previously segmented, comparing the
18 | new segment size list to an existing segment size list;

19 | e) if the existing segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of
20 | said digital data file, transferring said digital data file to the second
21 | computing system according to said existing segment size list;

22 | f) if the new segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said
23 | digital file,

24 | creating a new file identifier for each new segment ascertained by
25 | the creating of the new segment size list,

26 | creating a new range of locations for each new segment of the
27 | digital data file to identify the location for each new segment,
28 | and

29 | storing the digital data file at said locations for each new segment;

30 | g) transferring each new segment of said digital data file to at least one of
31 | the second computing systems; and

32 | repeating steps a) through ~~[[h)]]~~ g) at each request for each digital data
33 | file.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein calculating the new segment
2 size list comprises the steps of:

3 determining a number of storage devices attached to said first computing
4 system available to retain a plurality of segments of said digital data
5 file;

6 determining a maximum digital data transfer load for the storage devices
7 attached to said first computing system;

8 assigning a minimum segment size which is the smallest amount of digital
9 data to be contained within one segment of the digital data file;

10 calculating a first segment size as a first function of a number of the
11 storage devices, the current digital data transfer load, the maximum
12 digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment size;

13 assigning a last segment size as the minimum segment size;

14 calculating all remaining segment sizes as a second function of the
15 number of the storage devices, the current digital data transfer load,
16 the maximum digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment
17 size; and

18 partitioning said digital data file into segments whereby the first segment
19 of the digital data file is of the first segment size, the last segment of
20 the digital data file is of the last segment size, and all the remaining
21 segments of the digital data file is of the remaining segment sized.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the first function to determine the first segment size is:

$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

where

Seg1 is the first segment size,

min is the minimum function of two variables,

V is a total size of the digital data file, and

f is determined by the formula:

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

where

N_d is the number of storage devices
available to retain the segments
of the digital data file,

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
load, and

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the second function to determine
2 the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load, and
17 C_i is the current digital data transfer
18 load.

- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
2 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
3 second computing system within the digital data file.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.
- 1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the first function to determine the
2 first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Seg1 is the first segment size,

6 \min is the minimum function of two variables,

7 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 f is determined by the formula:

9

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

10

where

11

N_d is the number of storage devices

12

available to retain the segments

13

of the digital data file,

14

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

15

load,

16

C_i is the current digital data transfer

17

load, and

18

I is the file interactivity factor.

1

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second function is further

2

dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second function to determine

2

the remaining segment sizes is:

3

$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4

where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 **I** is the file Inter activity factor.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,
14 M_l is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,
16 C_l is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and
18 H is the file usage factor.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time; and

4 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
5 second computing system within the digital data file.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices

12 available to retain the segments

13 of the digital data file,

14 M_l is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_l is the current digital data transfer
17 load,

18 H is the file usage factor, and

19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

11

where

12

N_d is the number of storage devices

13

available to retain the segments

14

of the digital data file,

15

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

16

load,

17

C_i is the current digital data transfer

18

load,

19

H is the file usage factor, and

20

I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within the multiple storage
3 devices of the first computing system.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within multiple storage devices
3 of the plurality of the second computing systems.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital data file is a video file
2 to be transferred isochronously to at least one of the second computing
3 systems.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A digital data service system in communication with
2 a plurality of computing systems to provide at least one digital data file of a
3 plurality of digital data files to at least one of the plurality of computing
4 systems, comprising:

5 a plurality of digital data file storage devices in communication with each
6 other and with any of the plurality of computing systems; and

7 a segmentation apparatus in communication with the plurality of digital
8 data file storage devices, which, at a request of any of the digital data
9 files, dynamically fragments any requested digital data file into a
10 plurality of segments to facilitate transfer to and processing by at least
11 one of the computing systems of said segments. [[:]]

1 24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the segmentation
2 apparatus performs the steps of:

3 a) requesting an identifier for said digital data file;

4 b) requesting a range of locations within the multiple data storage devices
5 where said digital data file is resident;

6 | c) calculating a new segment size list for said digital data file describing a
7 | fragmentation of said digital data file as a function of demand for all
8 | digital data files resident on said digital data storage devices, size of
9 | each digital data file of all digital data files, amount of retention space
10 | available on each of the plurality of digital data storage devices, and
11 | available bandwidth for communication with the plurality of computing
12 | systems;

13 | d) if said digital data file has been previously segmented, comparing the
14 | new segment size list to an existing segment size list;

15 | e) if the existing segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of
16 | said digital data file, transferring said digital data file to the computing
17 | system according to said existing segment size list;

18 | f) if the new segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said
19 | digital file,

20 | creating a new file identifier for each new segment ascertained by
21 | the creating of the new segment size list,

22 | creating a new range of locations for each new segment of the
23 | digital data file to identify the location for each new segment,
24 | and

25 | storing the digital data file at said locations for each new segment;

26 | g) transferring each new segment of said digital data file to at least one of
27 | the computing systems; and

28 | repeating steps a) through ~~[[h)]]~~ g) at each request for each digital data
29 | file.

1 | 25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein calculating the new segment
2 | size list comprises the steps of:

3 | determining a number of storage devices attached to said first computing
4 | system available to retain a plurality of segments of said digital data
5 | file;

6 | determining a maximum digital data transfer load for the storage devices
7 | attached to said first computing system;

8 | assigning a minimum segment size which is the smallest amount of digital
9 | data to be contained within one segment of the digital data file;

10 | calculating a first segment size as a first function of a number of the
11 | storage devices, the current digital data transfer load, the maximum
12 | digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment size;

13 | assigning a last segment size as the minimum segment size;

14 | calculating all remaining segment sizes as a second function of the
15 | number of the storage devices, the current digital data transfer load,

16 the maximum digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment
17 size; and

18 partitioning said digital data file into segments whereby the first segment
19 of the digital data file is of the first segment size, the last segment of
20 the digital data file is of the last segment size, and all the remaining
21 segments of the digital data file is of the remaining segment sized.

1 26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the segmentation apparatus the
2 further performs the steps of:

3 assigning one of the number of storage devices to retain each segment of
4 the digital data file; and

5 assigning an address within the storage devices to identify the location of
6 an assigned segment.

1 27. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 f is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load, and

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load.

1 28. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

$$10 \quad f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

11 where

12 N_d is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load, and

17 C_i is the current digital data transfer
18 load.

1 29. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

2 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
3 computing system within the digital data file.

1 30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the first function to determine
the first segment size is:

$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

where

Seg1 is the first segment size,

min is the minimum function of two variables,

V is a total size of the digital data file, and

f is determined by the formula:

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + 1$$

where

N_d is the number of storage devices

available to retain the segments
of the digital data file,

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
load,

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and

18 I is the file interactivity factor.

1 32. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 33. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

11 where

12 N_d is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,
15 M_l is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,
17 C_l is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and
19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 34. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising the step of:
2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time.

1 35. (Original) The system of claim 34 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 36. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Seg1 is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

$$9 \quad f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and

18 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 37. (Original) The system of claim 34 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

where

Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
remaining segments,

max is the maximum function of two variables,

V is a total size of the digital data file, and

f is determined by the formula:

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

where

N_d is the number of storage devices
available to retain the segments
of the digital data file,

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
load,

C_i is the current digital data transfer
load, and

19 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 39. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time; and

4 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
5 computing system within the digital data file.

1 40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 41. (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\mathbf{Seg1} = \min(\mathbf{SegSize}_{\min}, \mathbf{V}/\mathbf{f})$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

10

where

11

N_d is the number of storage devices

12

available to retain the segments

13

of the digital data file,

14

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

15

load,

16

C_i is the current digital data transfer

17

load,

18

H is the file usage factor, and

19

I is the file Inter activity factor.

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42. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the second function is further

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dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

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43. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein the second function to

2

determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3

$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4

where

Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
remaining segments,

max is the maximum function of two variables,

V is a total size of the digital data file, and

f is determined by the formula:

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

where

N_d is the number of storage devices
available to retain the segments
of the digital data file,

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
load,

C_i is the current digital data transfer
load,

H is the file usage factor, and

I is the file Inter activity factor.

- 1 44. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within the multiple storage
3 devices of the first computing system.
- 1 45. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within multiple storage devices
3 of the plurality of the computing systems.
- 1 46. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the digital data file is a video file
2 to be transferred isochronously to the computing system.
- 1 47. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dynamically segmenting a digital
2 data file resident within at least one digital data storage device of multiple
3 digital data storage devices associated with a first computing system to
4 facilitate transfer of the segmented digital data file from said first
5 computing system to at least one of a plurality of second computing
6 systems, whereby said apparatus comprises the steps of
- 7 a) means for requesting an identifier for said digital data file;
- 8 b) means for requesting a range of locations within the multiple data
9 storage devices where said digital data file is resident;
- 10 c) means for calculating a new segment size list for said digital data file
11 describing a fragmentation of said digital data file as a function of
12 demand for all digital data files resident on said digital data storage

13 devices, size of each digital data file of all digital data files, amount of
14 retention space available on each of the plurality of digital data storage
15 devices, and available bandwidth for communication with the plurality
16 of second computing systems;

17 e) means comparing the new segment size list to an existing segment
18 size list, if said digital data file has been previously segmented;

19 f) means for transferring said digital data file to the second computing
20 system according to said existing segment size list, if the existing
21 segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said digital data
22 file;

23 g) means for:

24 creating a new file identifier for each new segment ascertained by
25 the creating of the new segment size list,

26 creating a new range of locations for each new segment of the
27 digital data file to identify the location for each new segment,
28 and

29 storing the digital data file at said locations for each new segment,
30 if the new segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said
31 digital file;

h) means for transferring each new segment of said digital data file to at least one of the second computing systems; and

~~means for repeating steps a) through h)~~ executing the means of steps of a) through h) at each request for each digital data file.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the means for calculating the new segment size list comprises:

means for determining a number of storage devices attached to said first computing system available to retain a plurality of segments of said digital data file;

means for determining a maximum digital data transfer load for the storage devices attached to said first computing system;

means for assigning a minimum segment size which is the smallest amount of digital data to be contained within one segment of the digital data file;

means for calculating a first segment size as a first function of a number of the storage devices, the current digital data transfer load, the maximum digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment size;

means for assigning a last segment size as the minimum segment size;

15 means for calculating all remaining segment sizes as a second function of
16 the number of the storage devices, the current digital data transfer
17 load, the maximum digital data transfer load, and the minimum
18 segment size; and

19 means for partitioning said digital data file into segments whereby the first
20 segment of the digital data file is of the first segment size, the last
21 segment of the digital data file is of the last segment size, and all the
22 remaining segments of the digital data file is of the remaining segment
23 sized.

1 49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

10

where

11

N_d is the number of storage devices

12

available to retain the segments

13

of the digital data file,

14

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

15

load, and

16

C_i is the current digital data transfer

17

load.

1

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the second function to

2

determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3

$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4

where

5

Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the

6

remaining segments,

7

max is the maximum function of two variables,

8

V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

11 where

12 N_d is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load, and

17 C_i is the current digital data transfer
18 load.

1 51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 further comprising:

2 means for determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of
3 jumps by the second computing system within the digital data file.

1 52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3 **Seg1 = min(SegSize_{min}, V/f)**

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_l}{M_l - C_l} \right) + I$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 **M_l** is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 **C_l** is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and

18 **I** is the file interactivity factor.

1 54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + 1$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 C_i is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 further comprises:

2 means for determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests
3 for said digital data file for a period of time.

1 57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Seg1 is the first segment size,

6 \min is the minimum function of two variables,

7 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 f is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and

18 H is the file usage factor.

1 59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 59 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 further comprises:

2 means for determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests
3 for said digital data file for a period of time; and

4 means for determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of
5 jumps by the second computing system within the digital data file.

1 62. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 63. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_l is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_l is the current digital data transfer
17 load,

18 H is the file usage factor, and

19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 64 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

11 where

12 N_d is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 C_i is the current digital data transfer
18 load,

19 H is the file usage factor, and

20 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within the multiple storage
3 devices of the first computing system.

1 67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the locations at which the
2 segments of said data file are located are within multiple storage devices
3 of the plurality of the second computing systems.

1 68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the digital data file is a video
2 file to be transferred isochronously to at least one of the second
3 computing systems.

1 69. (Currently Amended) A medium for retaining a computer program to
2 dynamically segment a digital data file resident within at least one digital
3 data storage device of multiple digital data storage devices associated
4 with a first computing system to facilitate transfer of the segmented digital
5 data file from said first computing system to at least one of a plurality of
6 second computing systems, whereby said method comprises the steps of

7 a) requesting an identifier for said digital data file;

8 b) requesting a range of locations within the multiple data storage devices
9 where said digital data file is resident;

10 c) calculating a new segment size list for said digital data file describing a
11 fragmentation of said digital data file as a function of demand for all
12 digital data files resident on said digital data storage devices, size of
13 each digital data file of all digital data files, amount of retention space
14 available on each of the plurality of digital data storage devices, and

15 available bandwidth for communication with the plurality of second
16 computing systems;

17 d) if said digital data file has been previously segmented, comparing the
18 new segment size list to an existing segment size list;

19 e) if the existing segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of
20 said digital data file, transferring said digital data file to the second
21 computing system according to said existing segment size list;

22 f) if the new segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said
23 digital file,

24 creating a new file identifier for each new segment ascertained by
25 the creating of the new segment size list,

26 creating a new range of locations for each new segment of the
27 digital data file to identify the location for each new segment,
28 and

29 storing the digital data file at said locations for each new segment;

30 g) transferring each new segment of said digital data file to at least one of
31 the second computing systems; and

32 repeating steps a) through ~~[[h)]]~~ g) at each request for each digital data
33 file.

1 70. (Original) The medium of claim 69 wherein calculating the new segment
2 size list comprises the steps of:

3 determining a number of storage devices attached to said first computing
4 system available to retain a plurality of segments of said digital data
5 file;

6 determining a maximum digital data transfer load for the storage devices
7 attached to said first computing system;

8 assigning a minimum segment size which is the smallest amount of digital
9 data to be contained within one segment of the digital data file;

10 calculating a first segment size as a first function of a number of the
11 storage devices, the current digital data transfer load, the maximum
12 digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment size;

13 assigning a last segment size as the minimum segment size;

14 calculating all remaining segment sizes as a second function of the
15 number of the storage devices, the current digital data transfer load,
16 the maximum digital data transfer load, and the minimum segment
17 size; and

18 partitioning said digital data file into segments whereby the first segment
19 of the digital data file is of the first segment size, the last segment of

20 the digital data file is of the last segment size, and all the remaining
21 segments of the digital data file is of the remaining segment sized.

1 71. (Original) The medium of claim 70 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load, and
16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load.

1 72. (Original) The medium of claim 70 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

11 where

12 N_d is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 M_l is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load, and

17 C_l is the current digital data transfer
18 load.

1 73. (Original) The medium of claim 70 further comprising the step of:

2 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
3 second computing system within the digital data file.

1 74. (Original) The medium of claim 73 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 75. (Original) The medium of claim 74 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Seg1 is the first segment size,

6 \min is the minimum function of two variables,

7 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 f is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and

18 I is the file interactivity factor.

1 76. (Original) The medium of claim 73 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 77. (Original) The medium of claim 76 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 **I** is the file Inter activity factor.

1 78. (Original) The medium of claim 70 further comprising the step of:
2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time.

1 79. (Original) The medium of claim 78 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 80. (Original) The medium of claim 79 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital data file,
14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,
16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load, and
18 H is the file usage factor.

1 81. (Original) The medium of claim 79 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 82. (Original) The medium of claim 81 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{N}_d + \left(\frac{\mathbf{M}_i}{\mathbf{M}_i - \mathbf{C}_i} \right) + \mathbf{H}$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital data transfer
16 load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital data transfer
18 load, and

19 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 83. (Original) The medium of claim 70 further comprising the steps of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital data file for a period of time; and

4 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
5 second computing system within the digital data file.

1 84. (Original) The medium of claim 83 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 85. (Original) The medium of claim 84 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices

12 available to retain the segments

13 of the digital data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital data transfer
15 load,

16 C_i is the current digital data transfer
17 load,

18 H is the file usage factor, and

19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 86. (Original) The medium of claim 83 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 87. (Original) The medium of claim 86 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

11

where

12

N_d is the number of storage devices

13

available to retain the segments

14

of the digital data file,

15

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

16

load,

17

C_i is the current digital data transfer

18

load,

19

H is the file usage factor, and

20

I is the file Inter activity factor.

1

88. (Original) The medium of claim 69 wherein the locations at which the

2

segments of said data file are located are within the multiple storage

3

devices of the first computing system.

1

89. (Original) The medium of claim 69 wherein the locations at which the

2

segments of said data file are located are within multiple storage devices

3

of the plurality of the second computing systems.

1 90. (Original) The medium of claim 69 wherein the digital data file is a video
2 file to be transferred isochronously to at least one of the second
3 computing systems.

1 91. (Currently Amended) A digital video data service system in communication
2 with a plurality of computing systems to provide at least one digital video
3 data file of a plurality of digital video data files to at least one of the
4 plurality of computing systems, comprising:

5 a plurality of digital video data file storage devices in communication with
6 each other and with any of the plurality of computing systems; and

7 a segmentation apparatus in communication with the plurality of digital
8 video data file storage devices, which, at a request of any of the digital
9 video data files, dynamically fragments any requested digital video
10 data file into a plurality of segments to facilitate transfer to and
11 processing by at least one of the second computing systems of said
12 segments. [[:]]

1 92. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 91 wherein the segmentation
2 apparatus performs the steps of:

3 a) requesting an identifier for said digital video data file;

4 b) requesting a range of locations within the multiple data storage devices
5 where said digital video data file is resident;

6 | c) calculating a new segment size list for said digital video data file
7 | describing a fragmentation of said digital video data file as a function of
8 | demand for all digital video data files resident on said digital video data
9 | storage devices, size of each digital video data file of all digital video
10 | data files, amount of retention space available on each of the plurality
11 | of digital video data storage devices, and available bandwidth for
12 | communication with the plurality of computing systems;

13 | d) if said digital video data file has been previously segmented,
14 | comparing the new segment size list to an existing segment size list;

15 | e) if the existing segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of
16 | said digital video data file, transferring said digital video data file to the
17 | computing system according to said existing segment size list;

18 | f) if the new segment size list provides a more facilitated transfer of said
19 | digital file,

20 | creating a new file identifier for each new segment ascertained by
21 | the creating of the new segment size list,

22 | creating a new range of locations for each new segment of the
23 | digital video data file to identify the location for each new
24 | segment, and

25 storing the digital video data file at said locations for each new
26 segment;
27 g) transferring each new segment of said digital video data file to at least
28 one of the computing systems; and
29 repeating steps a) through ~~[[h)]]~~ g) at each request for each digital video
30 data file.

1 93. (Original) The system of claim 92 wherein calculating the new segment
2 size list comprises the steps of:
3 determining a number of storage devices attached to said first computing
4 system available to retain a plurality of segments of said digital video
5 data file;
6 determining a maximum digital video data transfer load for the storage
7 devices attached to said first computing system;
8 assigning a minimum segment size which is the smallest amount of digital
9 video data to be contained within one segment of the digital video data
10 file;
11 calculating a first segment size as a first function of a number of the
12 storage devices, the current digital video data transfer load, the

13 maximum digital video data transfer load, and the minimum segment
14 size;

15 assigning a last segment size as the minimum segment size;

16 calculating all remaining segment sizes as a second function of the
17 number of the storage devices, the current digital video data transfer
18 load, the maximum digital video data transfer load, and the minimum
19 segment size; and

20 partitioning said digital video data file into segments whereby the first
21 segment of the digital video data file is of the first segment size, the
22 last segment of the digital video data file is of the last segment size,
23 and all the remaining segments of the digital video data file is of the
24 remaining segment sized.

1 94. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein the segmentation apparatus the
2 further performs the steps of:

3 assigning one of the number of storage devices to retain each segment of
4 the digital video data file; and

5 assigning an address within the storage devices to identify the location of
6 an assigned segment.

95. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein the first function to determine the first segment size is:

$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

where

Seg1 is the first segment size,

min is the minimum function of two variables,

V is a total size of the digital video data file, and

f is determined by the formula:

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

where

N_d is the number of storage devices
available to retain the segments
of the digital video data file,

M_i is the maximum digital video data
transfer load, and

16 C_i is the current digital video data
17 transfer load.

1 96. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital video data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right)$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital video data file,

15 M_i is the maximum digital video data

16 transfer load, and

17 C_i is the current digital video data

18 transfer load.

1 97. (Original) The system of claim 93 further comprising the step of:

2 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the

3 computing system within the digital video data file.

1 98. (Original) The system of claim 97 wherein the first function is further

2 dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1 99. (Original) The system of claim 98 wherein the first function to determine

2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Seg1 is the first segment size,

6 \min is the minimum function of two variables,

7 V is a total size of the digital video data file, and

8 f is determined by the formula:

9

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

10

where

11

N_d is the number of storage devices

12

available to retain the segments

13

of the digital video data file,

14

M_i is the maximum digital video data

15

transfer load,

16

C_i is the current digital video data

17

transfer load, and

18

I is the file interactivity factor.

1

100. (Original) The system of claim 97 wherein the second function is further

2

dependent upon the file interactivity factor.

1

101. (Original) The system of claim 100 wherein the second function to

2

determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3

$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4

where

5 **Segn** is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 **max** is the maximum function of two variables,

8 **V** is a total size of the digital video data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + I$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital video data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital video data
16 transfer load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital video data
18 transfer load, and

19 **I** is the file Inter activity factor.

1 102. (Original) The system of claim 93 further comprising the step of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital video data file for a period of time.

1 103. (Original) The system of claim 102 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 104. (Original) The system of claim 103 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital video data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H$$

10 where

11 N_d is the number of storage devices
12 available to retain the segments
13 of the digital video data file,
14 M_i is the maximum digital video data
15 transfer load,
16 C_i is the current digital video data
17 transfer load, and
18 H is the file usage factor.

1 105. (Original) The system of claim 102 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor.

1 106. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 106~~ claim 105 wherein the
2 second function to determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital video data file, and

9 **f** is determined by the formula:

10
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i} - C_i \right) + H$$

11 where

12 **N_d** is the number of storage devices
13 available to retain the segments
14 of the digital video data file,

15 **M_i** is the maximum digital video data
16 transfer load,

17 **C_i** is the current digital video data
18 transfer load, and

19 **H** is the file usage factor.

1 107. (Original) The system of claim 93 further comprising the steps of:

2 determining a file usage factor describing a number of requests for said
3 digital video data file for a period of time; and

4 determining a file interactivity factor describing a number of jumps by the
5 computing system within the digital video data file.

1 108. (Original) The system of claim 107 wherein the first function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 109. (Original) The system of claim 108 wherein the first function to determine
2 the first segment size is:

3
$$\text{Seg1} = \min(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 **Seg1** is the first segment size,

6 **min** is the minimum function of two variables,

7 **V** is a total size of the digital video data file, and

8 **f** is determined by the formula:

9
$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

10 where

11 **N_d** is the number of storage devices

12 available to retain the segments

13 of the digital video data file,

14 M_i is the maximum digital video data
15 transfer load,

16 C_i is the current digital video data
17 transfer load,

18 H is the file usage factor, and

19 I is the file Inter activity factor.

1 110. (Original) The system of claim 107 wherein the second function is further
2 dependent upon the file usage factor and the file interactivity factor.

1 111. (Original) The system of claim 110 wherein the second function to
2 determine the remaining segment sizes is:

3
$$\text{Segn} = \max(\text{SegSize}_{\min}, V/f)$$

4 where

5 Segn is the a segment size for one segment of the
6 remaining segments,

7 \max is the maximum function of two variables,

8 V is a total size of the digital video data file, and

9 f is determined by the formula:

10

$$f = N_d + \left(\frac{M_i}{M_i - C_i} \right) + H + I$$

11

where

12

N_d is the number of storage devices

13

available to retain the segments

14

of the digital data file,

15

M_i is the maximum digital data transfer

16

load,

17

C_i is the current digital data transfer

18

load,

19

H is the file usage factor, and

20

I is the file Inter activity factor.

1

112. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein the locations at which the

2

segments of said data file are located are within the multiple storage

3

devices of the first computing system.

1

113. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein the locations at which the

2

segments of said data file are located are within multiple storage devices

3

of the plurality of the computing systems.

- 1 114. (Original) The system of claim 91 wherein the digital video data file is
2 transferred isochronously to the computing system.